

REMARKS

Claims 55-62 are currently pending. Claim 55 has been amended by the present amendment for the purpose of clarification only and no new matter has been added.

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated December 14, 2004, Applicants provisionally elect, without traverse, Claims 55-58 (Group I, directed to a method for playing a lottery game) for examination on the merits in the present application. Applicants make this election based on the understanding that Applicants are not prejudiced against filing one or more divisional applications that cover the non-elected claims.

Furthermore, M.P.E.P., 803 states the following:

...If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

The Office Action states that Claims 55-58 and Claims 59-62 do not relate to a single general inventive concept because they lack the same technical features. This analysis seems to be based primarily on the respective preambles of independent Claims 55 and 59.

However, Applicants note that Claims 55 and 59 recite many common limitations and use similar terminology. Moreover, both claims recite the step of calculating a time T(i).

Accordingly, given the substantially similarity in the claims, it is respectfully submitted that there is no serious burden in searching and examining the entire application.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a serious

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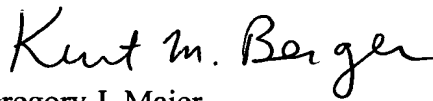
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burden on the examiner, whereas it would be a serious burden to Applicants to prosecute and maintain separate applications on the restricted inventions.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect a single Group be withdrawn and that a full examination on the merits of Claims 55-62 be conducted.

Respectfully submitted,

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